collaborations and 12,842 foreign collaborations, many of which also include technical collaborations, have been approved. These collaborations have been entered into in a wide range of activities covering both industry and services sector. Some major areas where such collaborations have taken place include electrical equipment, industrial machinery, chemicals, transporation, power, telecommunications, etc.

(c) and (d) As per the Sixth Survey Report of RBI on Foreign Collaboration in Indian Industry, the average profitability ratio during the survey period was 19.8% for subsidiaries, 14.4% for minority capital Participation companies, and 12.4% for pure technical collaboration companies. The report indicates that there has been an improvement of the profitability of the companies belonging to all the three groups during the survey period (1986-87 to 1993-94).

Closure of Diamond Units

973. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters of Gem and Jewellery are facing severe order problems owing to the economic slowdown in US;

(b) whether it is a fact that serveral US based importers have returned the diamond consignments;

(c) whether it is a also a fact that besides, the units which have already closed-down the existing units are working at about 25 per cent of the capacity; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information given by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai (GJEPC), instances of return of diamond consignments by US based importers have not come to the notice of the Council.

(c) while the slackness in demand of cut & polished diamonds in the global market, particulary in U.S., may have adversely affected the cutting and polishing units, no specific instances of closure of the units in the country have been brought to the notice of the Government. However, as per the provisional figures provided by the GJEPC, during the period April 2001-June 2001, imports of rought—

diamonds have been of the order of 325.81 lakh carats valued at US $ 1080.70 million, as against imports of 301.23 lakhs carats valued at US $ 1394.61 million during the corresponding period of the last year. As the scale of import of rough diamonds is a good indicator of the general level of activity of the diamond cutting and polishing industry, it may not be correct to say that the existing units are working at about only 25% of their capacity.

(d) In order to improve exports of diamonds, the Government and GJEPC have undertaken or have proposed to undertake several actions in the short/medium terms, some of which are given below:—

— Have got prepared a medium-term export strategy;

— Exploring the possibilities of direct procurement of rough diamonds from mining countries.

— Have provided funds under Critical Infrastructure Balancing Scheme to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture under the auspices of Indian Diamond Institute at Surat to give a fillip to the jewellery design and manufacturing.

— Continue to effectively promote the image of India's gems and jewellery abroad through frequent advertisements/publicity campaigns in international trade journals; participation in international fairs, buyers seller meet, direct approach to mass retailers etc.;

— Explore and identify new markets by undertaking market study through expert consultants and by deputing Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions for on the spot study for latest trends in designs;

— Newer markets in the Latin American Countries are also being closely examined for evolving a strategy for promotion of gems and jewellery exports from India;

— Suitably promote exports of Hall Market jewellery from Indian through publicity campaigns so as to promote jewellery made in India as a hallmark of quality;

— Have provided necessary amendments to the Exim Policy effective from 1/4/2001.